

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5698

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 367

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: SOCIALIST MEETING AT HELSINGOR

REF: (A) STATE 007791, (B) 75 LISBON 7493

1. SAW SOARES EVENING JANUARY 16. I RAISED SUBJECT OF HIS CALL FOR A JOINT MEETING OF PORTUGUESE-FRENCH-SPANISH-ITALIAN COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES, DRAWING ON REFTEL (A). AFTER I HAD MADE MY POINTS, SOARES TOLD ME AGAIN (REF B) THAT HIS INITIATIVE HAD SIMPLY BEEN A TACTIC TO EMBARRASS AND ISOLATE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY AT A STRATEGIC MOMENT. IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, THE RESPONSE FROM OTHER PARTIES HAD NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC AND THE IDEA WAS "NOW IN THE FREEZER."

2. IN DISCUSSION ON THE DANGER OF ALLIANCES BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS, A DANGER WHICH SOARES READILY ACKNOWLEDGED, SOARES VOLUNTEERED THAT HE CONSIDERED SANTIAGO CARRILLO EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN CUNHAL BECAUSE HE WAS CLEVERER. IN THIS CONNECTION, SOARES SAID THAT ONE OF THE CHIEF PURPOSES OF HIS
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RECENT EUROPEAN SWING HAD BEEN TO WARN WEST EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS

ABOUT CARRILLO. HE SAID THEY NEEDED TO HEAR THIS BECAUSE CARRILLO STILL GETS SYMPATHY DUE TO HIS EX-SOCIALIST BACKGROUND.

3. SOARES ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT BERLINGUER WAS DANGEROUS, BUT HE DID NOT THINK PCI WOULD GAIN SIGNIFICANTLY IN POPULAR SUPPORT DURING NEXT ELECTIONS. HE THOUGHT LEADERSHIP OF ITALIAN SOCIALISTS WAS WEAK. IN GENERAL, HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WOULD BE LESS OF A TENDENCY IN EUROPE FOR THE SOCIALISTS TO FORM TACTICAL ALLIANCES WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN THE FUTURE. AS FAR AS PORTUGAL IS CONCERNED, HE EMPHASIZED THAT HIS POSITION WAS THAT PCP SHOULD BE IN THE GOVERNMENT ONLY THROUGH ELECTIONS. THEN, HE SAID, WE SHALL SEE.

4. AT ONE POINT SOARES CHIDED ME A BIT FOR NOT SEEMING TO UNDERSTAND THAT HIS DEALINGS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN CP'S WERE PURELY TACTICAL. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, WE ARE SOCIALISTS, NOT COMMUNISTS. IN FIGHTING THE COMMUNISTS, TACTICS WOULD NECESSARILY VARY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND FROM TIME TO TIME.
CARLUCCI

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